

# ALTERNATIVE ENERGIES LETTER

30 points

To review the advantages and disadvantages of fossil fuels, nuclear energy, and renewable energy sources, you are going to write a letter to your president, Barack Obama. The goal of your letter is to encourage him to support the use of more alternative energy sources in our country rather than just relying on fossil fuels. To show him your knowledge of energy sources, you should mention the specific advantages and disadvantages of each type of energy. However, to convince him to support you, show how the advantages of NOT using fossil fuels (but rather using nuclear or renewable energy) outweigh their disadvantages. You will be graded on the following criteria:

## Information (21 points)

- Explain at least 1 advantage of fossil fuels
- Explain at least 2 disadvantages of fossil fuels in general
- Explain at least 1 specific drawback to coal
- Explain at least 1 specific drawback to oil
- Explain at least 2 advantages of nuclear power
- Explain at least 2 disadvantages of nuclear power
- Pick at least 4 types of renewable energy sources
  - Explain at least 2 advantages of EACH
  - Explain at least 1 disadvantage of EACH

## Convincing Argument (2 points)

Now that you have given the facts, explain why you think OVERALL President Obama should consider promoting nuclear and renewable energy sources instead of relying primarily on fossil fuels. Write an introduction stating this purpose for writing the letter. Sum up your main points by writing a conclusion that includes the following:

- How do the advantages of nuclear and renewable energy sources outweigh their disadvantages?
- How do the disadvantages of fossil fuels outweigh their advantages?
- Why is this so important?

### Format (4 points)

- Follow the format on the attached page for composing a business letter
  - Heading
  - Inside Address
  - Salutation
  - Body
  - Closing
  - Signature
- Organize your information according to the paragraphs on the attached page
  - Substitute what is in italics with your own information
- Neatness counts! You may type it or write it by hand (using blue or black ink). Either way, do not cross things out on your good copy, but rewrite/retype it as needed.
  - When typing your letter in class, use Google Drive (in gmail) so that you can access your letter on any computer (whether you are in school or at home) using the internet
  - Use the same username and password as you did for the renewable energy presentation, but this time, create a new document instead of opening a presentation
    - Username: fortcherry.amos
    - Password: environment
  - Be sure to rename the document (your name) and save it
  - When you are finished, don't forget to print your letter
    - If you are having trouble printing, or even using the internet, remember you always have the option of writing your letter by hand in blue or black ink

### Spelling and Grammar (3 points)

- Spelling and grammar do count, so proofread your letter.
- Check your spelling.
- Be sure to use complete sentences (subject, verb).
- Remember to use correct capitalization and punctuation.
- Use formal language to communicate respectfully.

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Environmental Science Class  
c/o Fort Cherry High School  
110 Fort Cherry Road  
McDonald, PA 15057

*Date*

Barack Obama, President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

*BODY OF LETTER (Use your energy notes and renewable energy resources chart as well as the format below to organize the information for your letter into logical paragraphs.)*

*1<sup>st</sup> paragraph: Introduce yourself and explain your purpose in writing the letter. What do you want President Obama to do?*

*2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph: Explain at least 1 advantage and 2 disadvantages to using fossil fuels in general. Also explain at least one specific drawback to coal and one specific drawback to oil.*

*3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph: Explain at least 2 advantages and 2 disadvantages to using nuclear power.*

*4<sup>th</sup> paragraph: Pick 4 renewable energy sources and explain at least 2 advantages and 1 disadvantage for EACH of the four renewable energy sources you have chosen.*

*5<sup>th</sup> paragraph: Summarize your main points. Convince President Obama to promote alternatives to fossil fuels by explaining why nuclear and renewable energy sources have more advantages. You could also discuss the importance of energy conservation and developing technologies to reduce pollution. Be polite, and thank him for his time.*

Sincerely,

*Sign your name*